ROBERT KIRKMAN
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BATTLE BEAST
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ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY
ARTIST

ANNALISA LEONI
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

COVERS
RYAN OTTLEY & ANNALISA LEONI | TONY MOORE | E.J. SU | YASMINE PUTRI | MATT WAGNER & BRENNAN WAGNER | ESAD RIBIĆ | KICKSTRADOMIS | DEEGAN PUCHKORS & RICO RENZI | AARON BARTLING ROBERT WILLIS | LENO HERNANDEZ & STEVE CANON | DONGHEE KIM | CLAYTON CRAIN PONCHO | CAMRON JOHNSON | WIL SHRIKE | VIKTOR MILLER GAUSA | IVAN TAO

SEAN MACKIEWICZ & BEN ABERNATHY
EDITORS

ANDRES JUAREZ
LOGO & PUBLICATION DESIGN

ASHBY FLORENCE
PRODUCTION

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INVINCIBLE CREATED BY **ROBERT KIRKMAN** AND **CORY WALKER**

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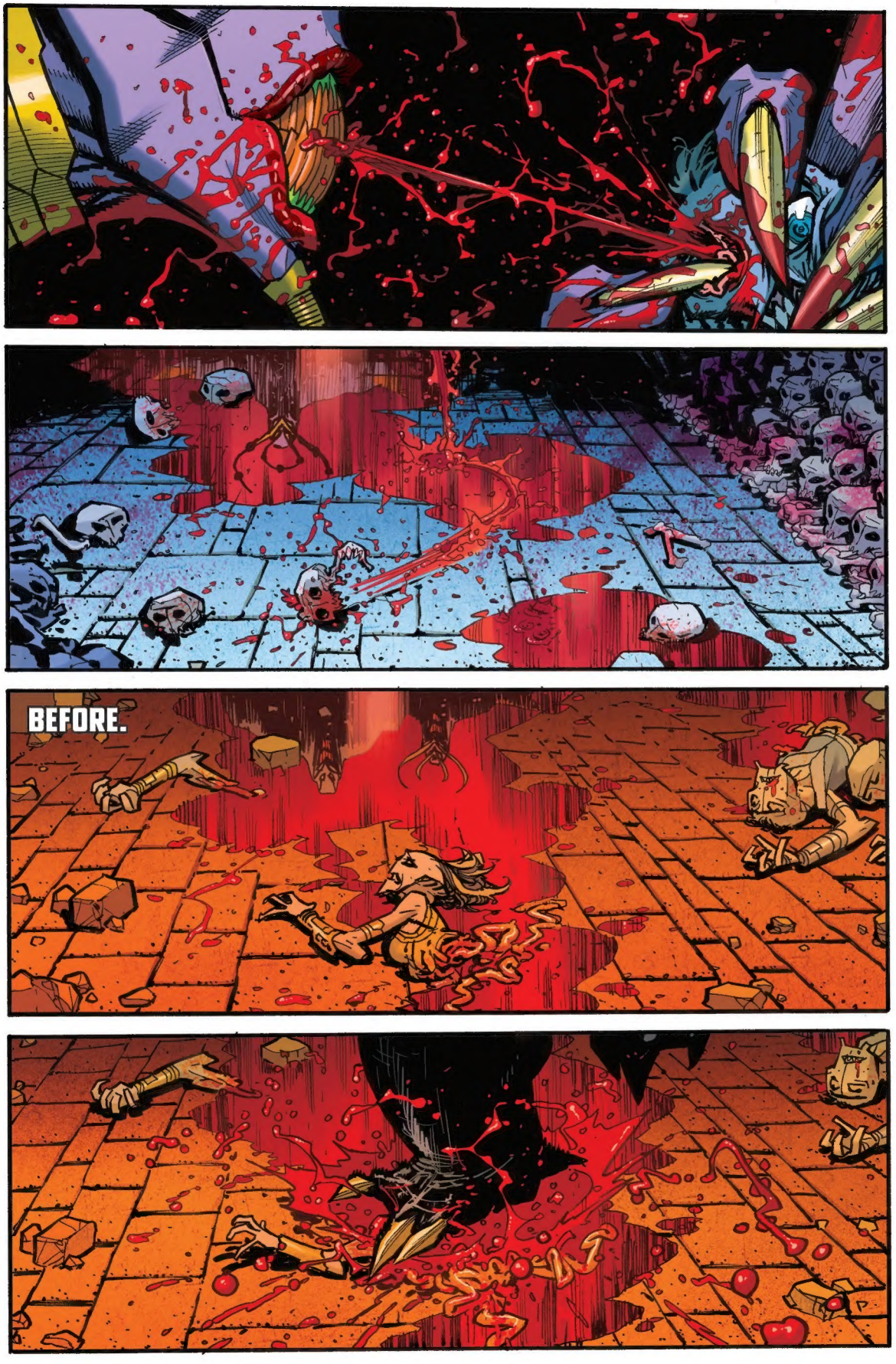
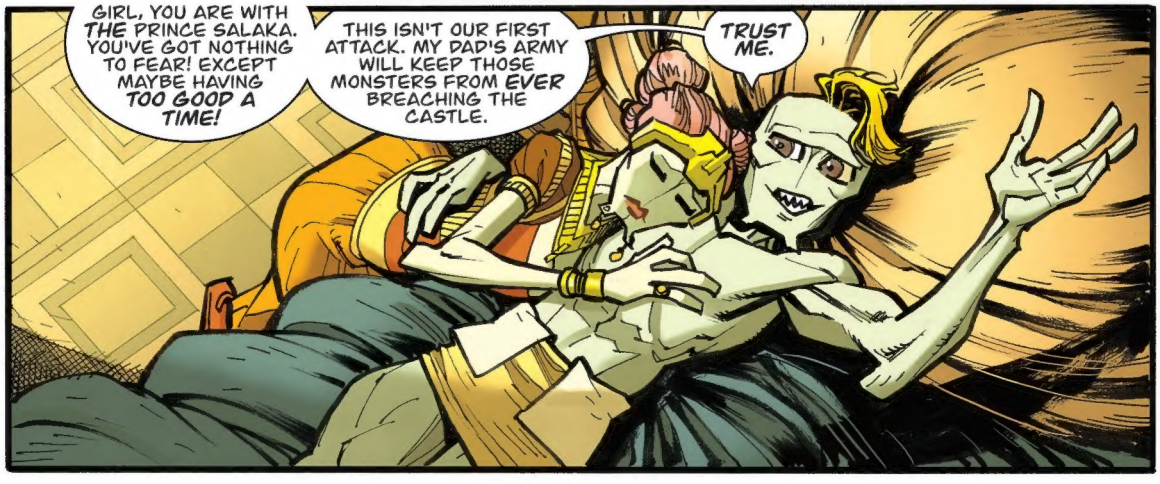

BEFORE.

JUGGERNAUT, MY SISTER! WHAT A WONDROUS PLACE FULL OF SOFT, DELICIOUS CREATURES WE'VE DISCOVERED!
HA! HA!
SO TRUE, COLOSSUS, MY DEAR BROTHER. HAD I KNOWN SUCH HORRIBLE SPLENDOR WAS POSSIBLE, I'D HAVE URGED YOU TO LEAVE BEHIND OUR BELOVED EMSIU MUCH SOONER!

THOSE TWO BRUTES ARE *RAVAGING* THE STREETS OF OUR FAIR CITY!
ARE YOU NOT CONCERNED, MY PRINCE?

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT YOU NOT BEING HERE *BOUNCING* ON MY LAP, BABY.
GET OVER HERE!

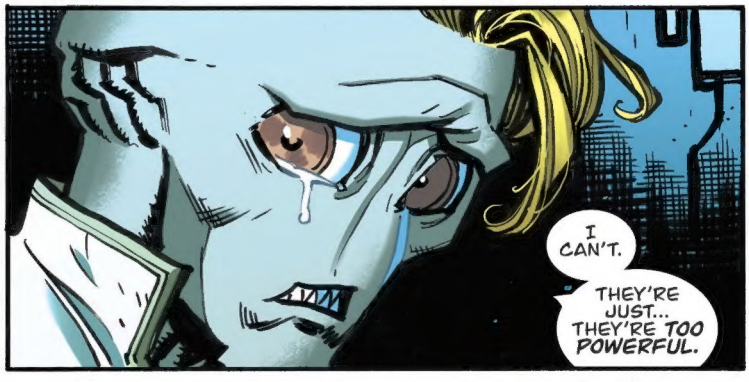
I DON'T KNOW... I'M *SCARED.*


GIRL, YOU ARE WITH *THE* PRINCE SALAKA. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR! EXCEPT MAYBE HAVING *TOO GOOD A TIME!*
THIS ISN'T OUR FIRST ATTACK. MY DAD'S ARMY WILL KEEP THOSE MONSTERS FROM *EVER* BREACHING THE CASTLE.
TRUST ME.

SKRRG
THEY'VE BREACHED THE CASTLE!

THEY'RE TOO POWERFUL!
DON'T EXAGGERATE, TINY CREATURE. MAYBE WE ARE JUST POWERFUL ENOUGH!
HA! HA!
KHOOM!
MMMM!
MORE TINY CREATURES!
RUN! RUN!
PRINCE SALAKA, DON'T LEAVE ME!
AAIIEEE!!
GRAAAKK!!

PRINCE SALAKA! WE NEED YOU!
YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER HAVE FALLEN, YOUR KINGDOM IS IN DISARRAY! YES! BUT YOUR ARMIES ARE STILL INTACT! THEY NEED ONLY A SOMEONE TO RALLY AROUND-- TO GIVE THEM HOPE!
WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE! BE THE LEADER THE PEOPLE OF FANTANIA NEED!


I CAN'T.
THEY'RE JUST... THEY'RE TOO POWERFUL.

YOU'RE A DISGRACE!
WRAMM!

KABOOM!

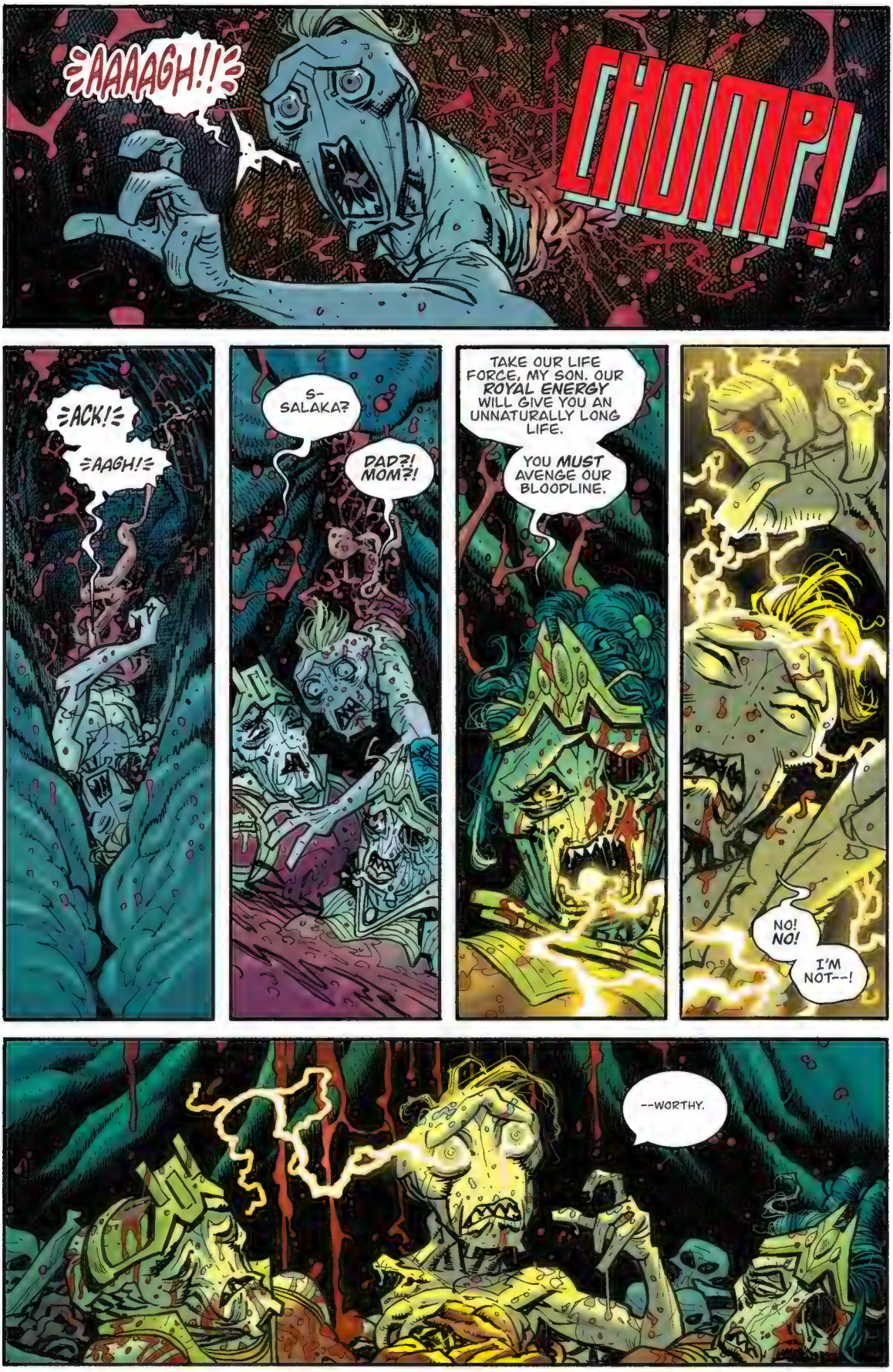
I DON'T KNOW, MY PRINCE. IT SEEMS LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE.
NAH, NAH, NAH. JUST SIT TIGHT AND TRUST IN SALAKA. WE'RE GOING TO BE JUST FINE.

THOSE MONSTERS ARE DOING DAMAGE, BUT THEY'RE GOING TO GET BORED WHEN THEY RUN OUT OF THINGS TO SMASH AND JUST LEAVE.
YOU'LL SEE.

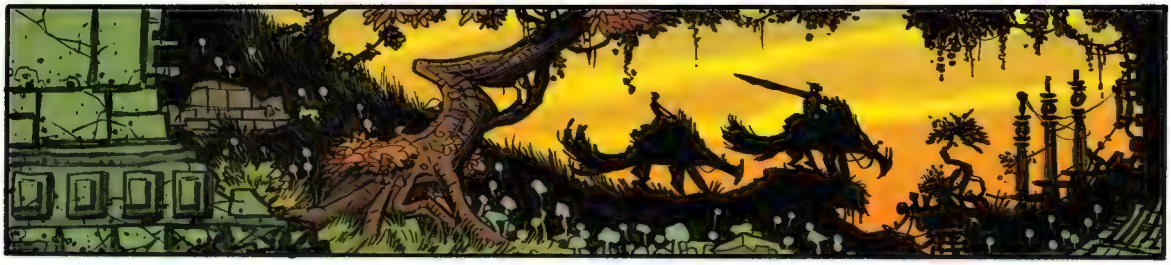
OH, PRINCE SALAKA, YOU'RE SO WISE!
AND HANDSOME!

YOU KNOW IT, LADIES!

AAAAGGH!!!
YOUR ARMY HAS FALLEN! YOUR SOLDIERS SOLD. YOU. OUT!
IT HAS BEEN MONTHS SINCE WE ATE YOUR PARENTS!
I DO SO LOVE THE TASTE OF ROYALTY!


AAAAGH!!
CHOMP!
ACK!
AAGH!
S-SALAKA?
DAD?! MOM?!
TAKE OUR LIFE FORCE, MY SON. OUR ROYAL ENERGY WILL GIVE YOU AN UNNATURALLY LONG LIFE.
YOU MUST AVENGE OUR BLOODLINE.
NO! NO!
I'M NOT--!
--WORTHY.

I HAD POWER ONCE. I DIDN'T USE IT WHEN I COULD HAVE AND MY PEOPLE SUFFERED... GREATLY.
I WON'T MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.
...
JUST SAYING...



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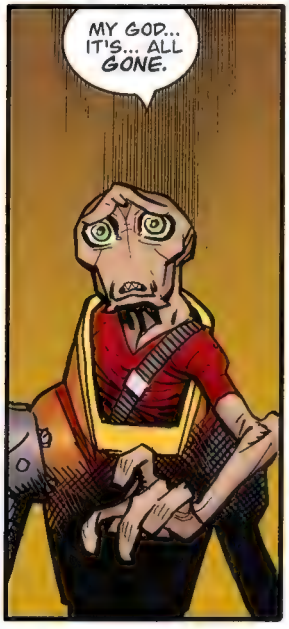

MY GOD... IT'S... ALL GONE.

THIS EXCURSION HAS ALREADY COST ME A SHIP AND CAUSED MULTIPLE DELAYS. IF YOU ARE GOING TO WEEP AT EVERY BIT OF RUINS WE ENCOUNTER ON THIS PLANET, I WILL LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
I WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER DELAYS.

YOU ARE UNNECESSARILY CRUEL. IT'S ONE OF THE MANY THINGS THAT MAKES ME HATE YOU.
YOU TOLD ME ON YOUR HOME WORLD, DORNN, YOU WERE A FORCE FOR GOOD. HOW HAVE YOU ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BECOME... THIS?
YEAH. WHAT THE HELL, MAN?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I ENDURE!
EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF MY LIFE IS AGONY. AN UNQUENCHABLE FURY ROILS WITHIN ME WITHOUT END. AS I LOOK AT YOU NOW, I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO TEAR YOU TO PIECES AND DRINK THE BLOOD FROM YOUR SCATTERED REMAINS.
IT TAKES EVERY OUNCE OF MY RESOLVE TO NOT ROAM THE LANDS IN A BLIND FURY, KILLING ALL I ENCOUNTER. THE GOOD I DO, IS REMINDING MYSELF THAT WOULD BE POINTLESSLY DESTRUCTIVE.

I WANT. MY LIFE. TO END!
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY I WILL KNOW PEACE, BUT ALSO THE ONLY WAY I CAN ENSURE I DON'T SUCCUMB TO MY BASER INSTINCTS AND CHOOSE INSTEAD TO GIVE INTO MY BLOODLUST.
THAT IS THE CONFLICT THAT RAGES WITHIN ME.

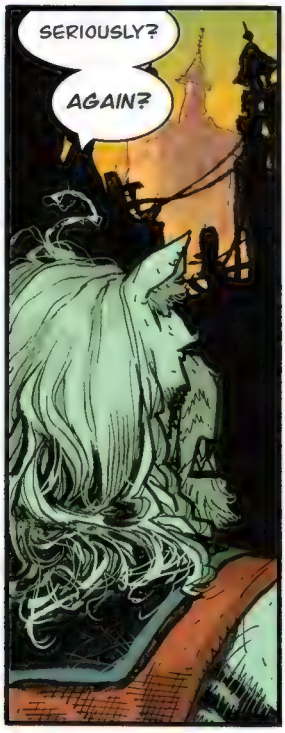
IT ROBS ME OF THE ABILITY TO... CARE FOR YOUR FEELINGS.

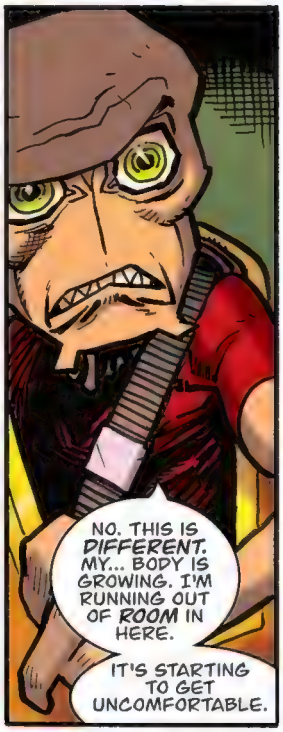
I'VE SEEN YOU LIE ON THE FLOOR OF MY SHIP AND FALL INTO SLUMBER ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. IT SEEMS TO ME YOU CONTROL YOUR RAGE VERY WELL.
IF YOU CAN RELAX ENOUGH TO FALL ASLEEP, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU CAN RELAX ENOUGH TO NOT BE A RUDE PIECE OF SHIT AT ALL TIMES.

...

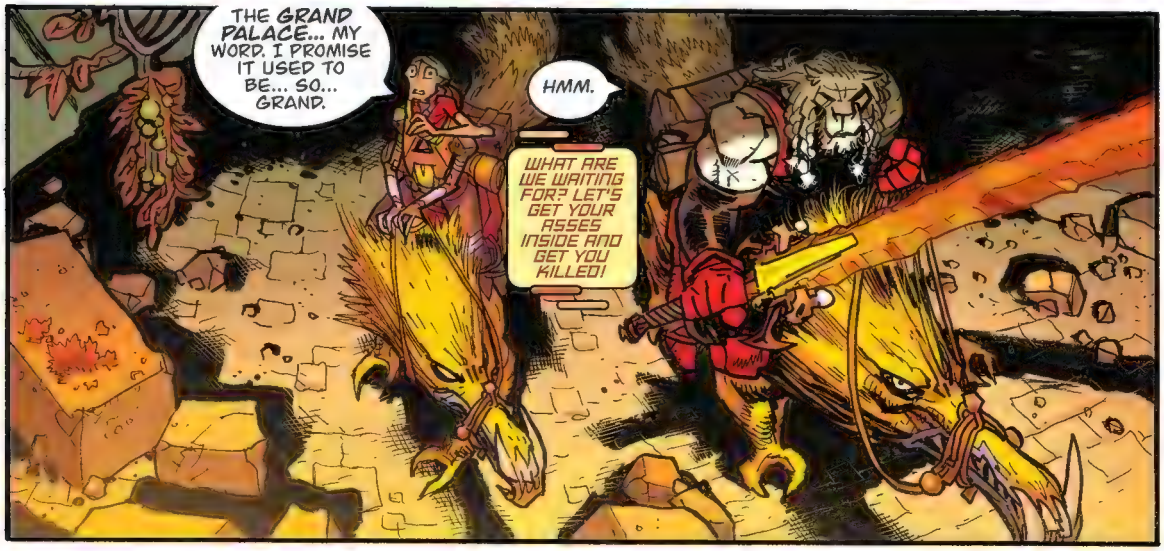
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
COMPUTER! I THINK I MAY BE STARTING TO LIKE YOU!

=OOOF=
=UNGH.=


SERIOUSLY?
AGAIN?


NO. THIS IS DIFFERENT. MY... BODY IS GROWING. I'M RUNNING OUT OF ROOM IN HERE.
IT'S STARTING TO GET UNCOMFORTABLE.

BE UNCOMFORTABLE QUIETLY.


THE GRAND PALACE... MY WORD. I PROMISE IT USED TO BE... SO... GRAND.
HMM.
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GET YOUR ASSES INSIDE AND GET YOU KILLED!

LET US WASTE NO MORE TIME.
COME.

I ASSUME YOU CAN STILL LEAD US THROUGH THIS CASTLE IN SPITE OF ITS CURRENT STATE?
I KNOW MY WAY AROUND, YES.
IF I HAD THE SENSORS FROM MY SHIP, I'D SCAN THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THIS CASTLE. ALTHOUGH, I FEEL LIKE THERE'S NO CHANCE A COLLAPSE WOULD ACTUALLY KILL YOU, WOULD IT? BATTLE BEAST?
BATTLE BEAST?

FINE. IGNORE ME, THEN.
THE THRONE ROOM...
=GULP=
...IS THIS WAY.
OOOOH... EXCITING.
HUH.
WEIRD. DIDN'T EXPECT THIS.
ENOUGH OF THIS! I CRAVE BATTLE, AND I WILL HAVE IT NOW!
WHERE IS THIS JUGGERNAUT?! I WILL HAVE HER HEAD FOR DINNER IF SHE IS SO AFRAID SHE COWERS UNSEEN IN THIS DECREPIT CASTLE!
=PSST!=
HEY! OVER HERE!

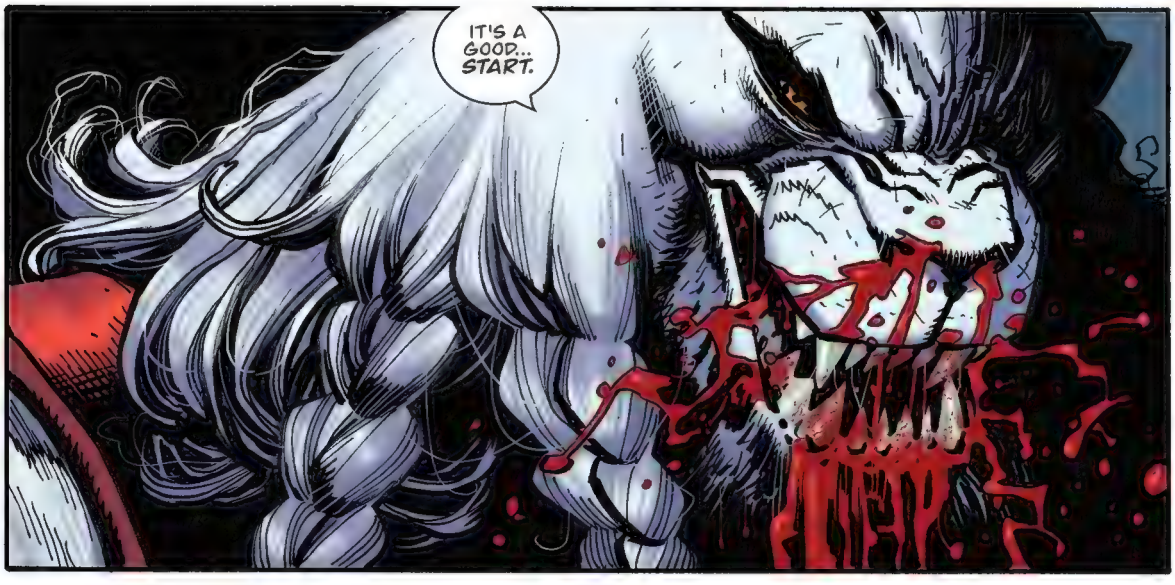
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THAT JUGGERNAUT, AIN'T YA?!
BIG FELLA LIKE YOU. BIG MEAN FACE. BIG MEAN SWORD. BIG MEAN... EVERYTHING.
DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D BE COMING TO THIS CASTLE FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN KILLING... AND ANYONE WHO'S SPENT ANY TIME IN THESE PARTS KNOWS THE ONLY THING HERE WORTH KILLING... IS THE JUGGERNAUT.
SO YEAH. YOU'RE HERE FOR THE JUGGERNAUT. I JUST KNOW IT.
ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME TIME TO RESPOND?
DON'T NEED TO. ALREADY KNOW. I CAN SEE IT PLAIN AS YOUR FURRY FACE.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO STOP US?
STOP YOU? HELL NO! AIN'T A SINGLE SOLITARY SOUL ON THIS PLANET GOING TO TRY AND STOP YOU. HELL, I'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON!
SHE'S IN THE DUNGEON JUST DOWN THOSE STAIRS. PLEASE KILL HER DEAD. IF YOU CAN!
I'M SALAKA, I WAS THE PRINCE A LONG TIME AGO. THIS IS MY CASTLE.
SURE THING, KID. I'M SURE A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE A LOT OF THINGS A LONG TIME AGO.
THAT AND A THINGA WILL GET YOU A CUP OF SLUK.
THE JOKE THERE IS THAT A CUP OF SLUK ONLY COSTS ONE THINGA, SO YOU AIN'T WORTH CRAP. GET IT?

DIDN'T CARE FOR THAT GUY. NO, SIR.
I WILL GLADLY EVISCERATE HIM ON THE WAY OUT IF I AM UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THIS BATTLE.
WELL, I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
I DON'T--
=IRRK!=
YOUR SQUIRMING IS STRESSING THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THIS ARTIFICIAL BODY. YOU COULD DAMAGE--
FWUMP!
AH! I'VE GOT LEGS!
LOOK AT THESE CUTE LITTLE THINGS!
THIS BODY'S MOBILITY IS ACHIEVED THROUGH A NEURAL LINK WITH AN ORGANIC BRAIN, BUT I BELIEVE I CAN BYPASS THAT SYSTEM TO GAIN MOTOR FUNCTION.
REROUTING...
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE OVER MY BODY?
YOU DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.
I LEAVE YOU TO TEND TO YOUR OWN BUSINESS. I TIRE OF THIS DELAY.
I WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS I GAIN CONTROL.
I'M COMING! STEP ASIDE-- I WANT TO LOOK THIS JUGGERNAUT IN THE--

WELCOME TO MY DOMAIN. I AM VERY PLEASED TO SEE YOU.
I'M FAMIISSSSHED.
KROOM!!
YOU CRUSHED MY... FRIEND.
DID YOU SAY...
...
WAIT A MINUTE-- IS THAT--
COULD IT BE?
MY BROTHER!
GRAHH!

YOU FREED HIM FROM THE COSMIC NAIL? YOU REMOVED HIS TUSK AND CRAFTED A SWORD FROM IT?!
I SOUGHT HIM OUT AS I WAS TOLD OF HIS IMMENSE STRENGTH AND FIGHTING PROWESS. HE PROVED TO POSSESS NEITHER AND WAS QUICKLY FELLED.
IMPOSSIBLE! NONE SAVE MYSELF HAVE EVER FELLED THE COLOSSUS!
HE WAS NOT A WORTHY CHALLENGE. I HOPE YOU FAIR BETTER AGAINST MY MIGHT.
PLEASE. I'M ONLY JOKING. HIS POWER PALED IN COMPARISON TO MINE.
I WILL BE DEVOURING YOUR INNARDS BEFORE SUNSET!
IS THAT YOUR BEST?!
PATHETIC!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?!
SHUKK!


IT'S A GOOD... START.

PENVINCIPALS

WRITE US AT INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM

Daaang, Battle Beast walked right into that one...phew! Welcome back to another edition of Penvincipals, I'm your co-host, Ben Abernathy. Joining me once more is the busiest man in entertainment--Robert Kirkman!

I'm not that...well...let's dive right into the letters, shall we?! Eh! One second before we do--this series is a resounding success, both critically and commercially! I'm completely blown away by how well it's doing. I'm pretty sure this is the highest selling issue 5 I've ever done by quite a wide margin. So, before I dive into these letters so I can dive into the next thing on my long to-do list (more TRANSFORMERS script!) I wanted to say THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Now, letters! Letters! Letters!

Hello Skybound Team!!

Let me just say I have been driving everyone I know crazy talking about Battle Beast.

My dad was a huge comic fan in the late 80s & early 90s but stopped collecting before Invincible came out! Needless to say he completely missed out.

Now that I am an adult, I got really into comics, and it has inspired my dad to start reading again! Since it is so early in the run, my dad was able to pick up the second printings and he is LOVING it!

You guys are doing some amazing work with Battle Beast! Ryan's art is so jaw dropping and is beautifully brought to life with Annalisa's coloring. Thank you so much!!

Much Love,
Omar Ramirez

Thank you for reading Oscar and I love that you and your father are enjoying this series together. BATTLE BEAST: Bringing families together!

It's nice to see violence doing that for a change!

Hello Robert, Ryan, and Invincible crew,

I just wanted to reach out and say what a cool book Battle Beast #1 was. For the first time ever, I actually showed up to a comic store on a book's release day in anticipation– that's how excited I was for this.

Obviously, I'm a huge fan of the show. I graduated from the University of Cincinnati at the start of May, and Invincible has weirdly enough been one of the defining constants throughout my time at school. What began with my freshman roommate introducing me to "a cartoon with a twist at the end of episode 1" came full circle when I watched Season 3 during my final semester this spring. One of my favorite Cincy memories was coordinating with 15-20 of my fraternity brothers to wait until everyone finished classes on the day the finale dropped so we could watch the Conquest fight together (we waited till like 7, worth it, though).

Anyways, this new book is sick, the dynamic with his new ship is hilarious and the artwork is amazing.

Thanks for the memories!
Leo Smith

Love that we got you in on release day for #1...and that sounds like an awesome way to experience that Conquest fight. Go Bearcats!

Ha!

Hi there Ben and Robert! I'm a younger fan who got into the Invincible comics after the

show started streaming on Amazon. You guys all made my favourite superhero comic!!! Thanks a bajillion!!!! These little columns at the end of each issue were always such a cute touch too--almost like a mini time capsule of what was running through fan's minds as Mark was getting his ass handed to him for the thousandth time!

The past three issues have been amazing, in terms of the writing, the drawings, and THE COLOURING!?!?!? My personal favourite artist in that department was John Rauch but Annalisa Leoni definitely gives him a run for his money. I really hope that she and Ryan Ottley (my favourite comic artist in the industry btw) continue to collaborate in the future because every panel of Battle Beast thus far has been phenomenal to look at. I'm practically drooling over my physical issues every time a new one comes out.

One thing I've gotta ask, though (obviously without going into spoilers), but is there a chance that you guys are going to revisit that fight from the original Invincible run? Cheeky indirect answers are welcome!

Adoringly,
Farshad

Appreciate your devotion to our series, Farshad...and I'd recommend buying TWO copies of each issue if you do start to drool on the issues (no judgement!).

I'm not going to spoil anything, Farshad. I think I know what fight you're talking about but it really doesn't matter. This is a full prequel series that won't really be touching on any of the fights you've seen before. That's why you can read this series in full without reading a single issue of INVINCIBLE. BUT if you go back and reread (or read) INVINCIBLE after reading this series there should be an extra level of insight as you read the BATTLE BEAST scenes that should be fun.

Hello Battle Beast team!

I picked the Battle Beast series up after watching the entirety of the Invincible show in 4 days, and I am beyond impressed with the art, writing, and story as a whole. I am an art major currently attending University and with all the formal studies and training, I was starting to lose focus of my end goal--to make others passionate with my own comics. I have always been passionate about art and as a kid I fell in love with superhero comics. I can confidently say that this series is returning my wonder and excitement for comics! The world building of the extraterrestrial has me lingering on each panel and speech bubble. And I can not get enough of the insane details in the mechanical aspects! The scenes of the crash on Salaka's home planet were jaw dropping and I'll be counting down the days to the next issue. Of course, Battle Beast is far from the superheroes I grew up reading, but the feelings I got from reading have stayed the same. My passion for art/comics returned after watching the show and continues to grow with the Battle Beast comics. So, I have to thank everyone on this team for creating something I've fallen in love with!

I am also very interested in seeing how Prince Salaka and Battle Beast's relationship evolves. Will the Prince be able to cut through Thokk's cold exterior and find the emotions he claims to not hold? Or is Thokk really just an emotionless killer, only impassioned with the quest to find a worthy death? I'm reading so hard in between the lines and scanning every slight facial expression, but comics that leave you wondering and rereading are always the best ones! I seriously can't wait to get my hands on the next issue (I'm DYING to read it).

With love,
Paloma Lemin

Thank you for the passionate support of our series, Paloma, and writing in! And I agree, the relationship between Salaka and Battle Beast is a really interesting one and you're going to enjoy how it evolves, I promise!

Seconded! I think you've seen a little of that in this issue but that MAY not be the end of it, unless...Salaka DID die in this issue? It's possible!! EEK!

And that's a wrap for this month--please keep the letters rolling in and see y'all back in 30!

-Ben

Another BIG action issue, coming up! See you back here really soon!

-Robert

ROBERT KIRKMAN AND DAN MORA BEGIN A NEW ERA

OVERSIZED

TRANSFORMERS

#25

THE

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CHANGES OCTOBER 2025

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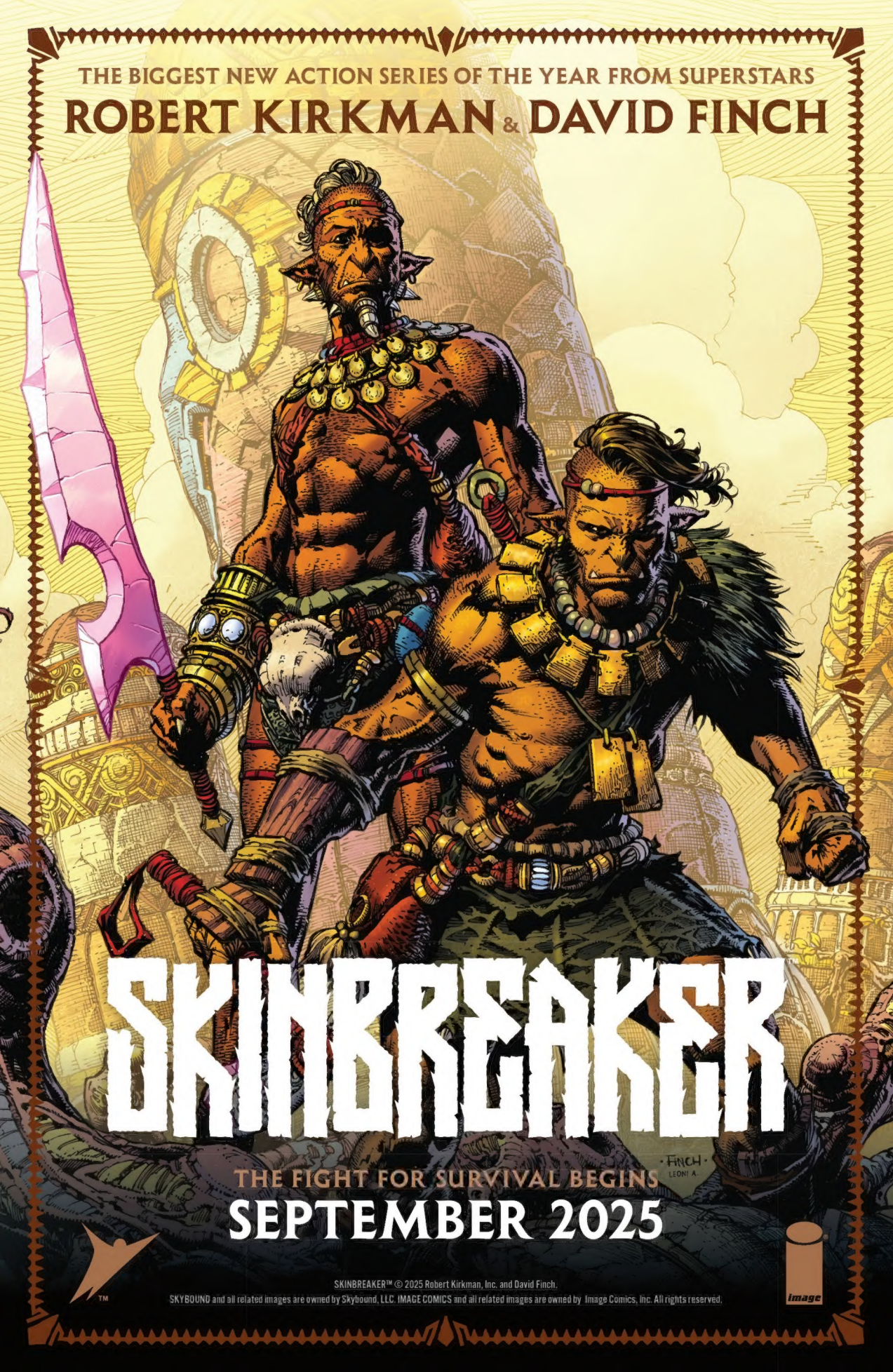
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SKINBREAKER™
THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 2025
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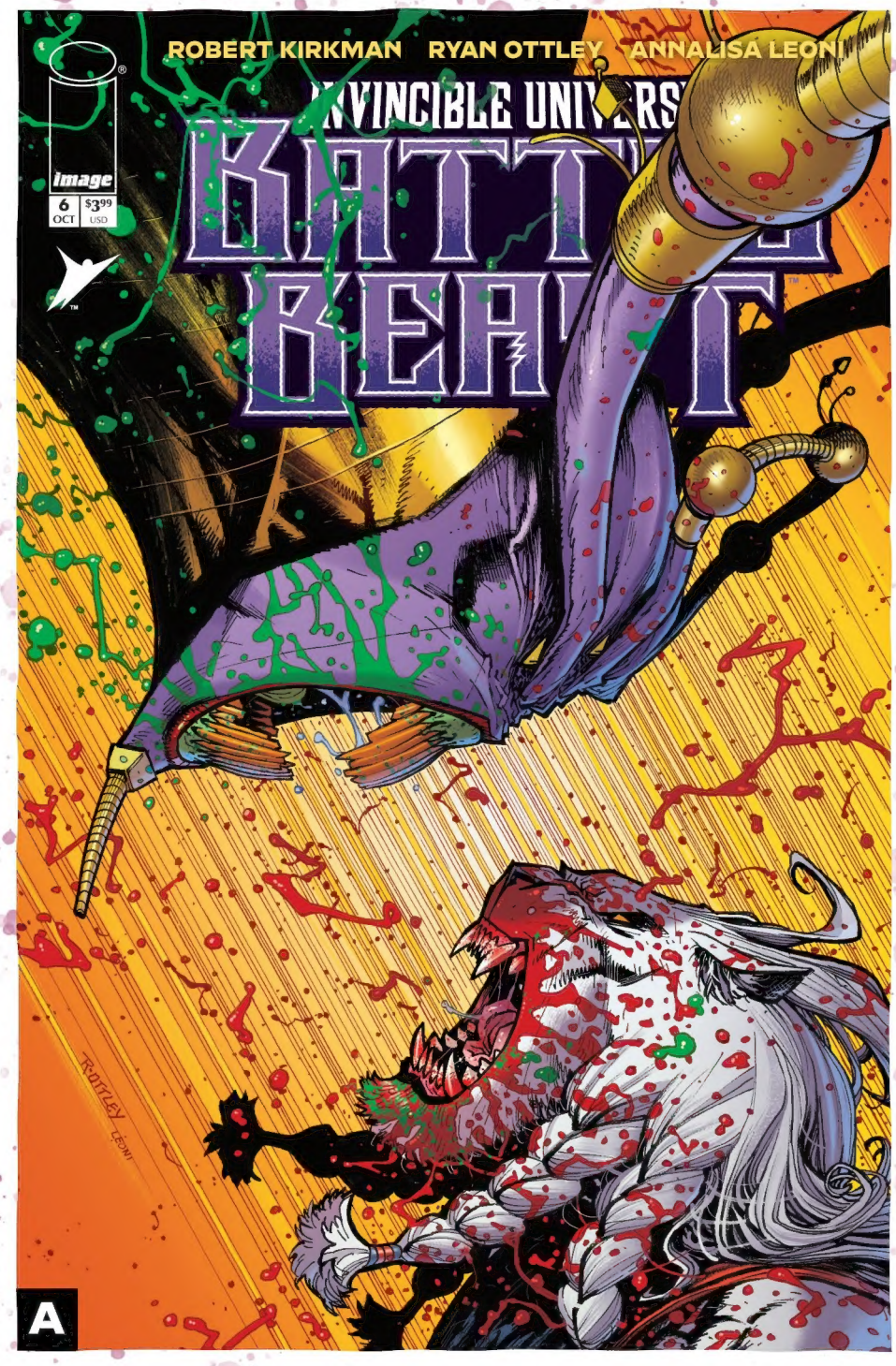

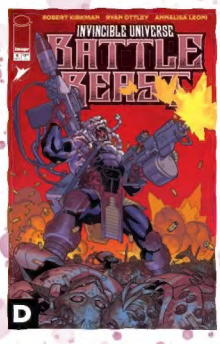

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